

800 GROUPS PRAY IN AID OF REVIVAL

About 8,300 Washingtonians Petition in One Night for Divine Assistance.

By ARTHUR JOYCE.

There were more persons grouped together in prayer in Washington last night than could be housed in any auditorium in the city, aside from Convention Hall and the Sunday tabernacle now nearing completion.

In nearly 300 gatherings in homes throughout Washington, approximately 8,300 men and women knelt in prayer for the success of the Sunday campaign in January and February.

Last week 710 prayer meetings were held and 7,113 persons attended the gatherings. There were 735 meetings last night. In another week those behind this preliminary revival campaign work expect that the total number of prayer meetings each Tuesday and Friday night will aggregate 1,000. This will represent the largest total for any city in which the noted evangelist has campaigned, aside from New York.

Campaign Takes Hold.

Large attendance at the prayer meetings emphasizes the "hold" which the coming campaign has on the church people of Washington. All told, there are thirteen districts in Washington, housing week churches which are co-operating directly with the revivals.

The meetings for prayer two evenings each week are conceded to be among the strongest and best arranged features of the preliminary campaign. And they are the ones which Billy Sunday emphasizes continually as the most important. He is a great believer in the efficacy of prayer and he insists always that the advance prayer gatherings be "pushed to the limit," with the idea of having the entire city "covered" in the preliminary prayer work.

The subject at each of the prayer groups last night was "Personal Profession and Consecration." The particular thought emphasized by each of the prayer leaders was this: "Can we expect to be really serviceable to this movement unless God freshly gives us our own sins, cleanses our inner lives, and fits us for this holy service?" The prayer topics are changed each week.

Pastors Prayer Service.

In line with the preliminary prayer services, the Pastors' Federation of the District met yesterday in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and decided unanimously to invite every minister in Washington interested in the Sunday revival to meet on the morning of December 31 for a prayer service for the success of the revival. The meeting was held in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

"Key men" who will direct the ushers at the big tabernacle during the Sunday campaign met for the first time in the big wooden building last night and were instructed by Dr. James E. Walker, advance representative of the Sunday party, on just what will be expected of them during the meetings. The "key men" will have charge of the various tabernacle sections and each will direct ten ushers in the handling of the big crowds and in taking the collections.

There will be an usher for every ten feet of space in the building. The tabernacle is so constructed that it can be emptied of a crowd of 14,000 persons in thirty minutes.

For City's Youngsters.

The committee in charge of boys' and girls' work yesterday outlined plans for looking after Washington youngsters from 10 to 14 years of age. Billy will conduct several services for the children during the campaign and experts of the Sunday party will talk with them in the schoolrooms. Charles P. Light is chairman of this committee.

Dr. George G. Dowey spoke last night at a meeting of leading Protestant Episcopalians representing the diocese of Washington, in St. Stephen's Church, Fourteenth and Irving streets. He told of the organization of men's Bible classes in Washington, which have been growing under his direction at the rate of about 1,200 new members each week.

Queer Quirks in the News

BEER was carried in undertakers' wagons in New York because of strike of brewery drivers.

WOMAN to be chief of police in O'Connell if move now on foot is successful.

"CANDY KIDS" of a Salina, Kans., school have organized to reduce candy and nuts they eat, and have saved \$20 already.

NEW DEVICE that hums when moved over body enables doctor to detect metal in wounds.

LOW-NECK BRIDES are banned by Jersey bishop, who thinks décolleté weddings lack solemnity.

HELP! Bill to reduce salary of Congressmen has been introduced in the Senate.

LOST TURKEY HEN of Oregon had been for three months trying to hatch six imitation eggs.

BIGGEST AIR RAID "dug out" in England is unfinished railway tunnel that holds 20,000 and has seats for 2,000.

LETTER CARRIER in Altoona, Pa., has completed thirty-five years' service, during which he walked 153,400 miles.

Hurled Half Mile by Blast, Ship's Officer Lands Unhurt

By J. HERBERT DUCKWORTH.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 18.—The greatest miracle of the destruction of Halifax was the escape of Third Officer Mayers of the steamship Middleton Castle, which lay about 200 yards from the Mont Blanc when her cargo of T. N. T. blew up.

This is Mayers' story as he related it to me: "I had just come on the deck of the Middleton Castle fully decided to take a boat to go ashore on business when I noticed flames on the deck of the Mont Blanc and in quick time then followed the explosion. 'From that moment on till what seems now like days afterwards, I do not know what really happened except that I landed practically unhurt, well up on Fort Needham hill, a distance of half a mile away. 'Though fully dressed when lifted from the deck I was stark naked

when I was dropped on the shore.

"It all seems like a horrible nightmare now. I seem to remember being lifted by the terrible shock a tremendous height into the air.

"I thought at the time that I was being driven through water and I tried hard to check my progress. This struggle at the time seemed to go on for hours.

"I must have become unconscious, finally. At any rate how I just landed I cannot tell you.

"I can remember suddenly waking up in a pile of snow with not a stitch of clothing on.

"Fortunately I had no bones broken, but I could not move. However, after a short time a relief party came along and picked me up."

This "human catapult" is now resting at the home of W. A. Hart. Mayers' fellow officers and relief workers who picked him up vouch for his story.

HARRIS DENIED POST

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tain it. The winning of the war depends upon ships. I think it is a crime that the shipping problem has been so ill-handled."

Senator Fletcher, chairman of the Commerce Committee, replied that no matter whether an official "dropped out," the shipping work would go on.

Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, retorted that while Pacific Coast yards heaped for ships to build, contracts were not made, and when they were made the builders suffered mysterious handicaps.

Ships Not Produced.

"It's an established fact," resumed Senator Harding, "that we have paid for ships and are not getting them. Three men I have talked to said their hands had been tied."

John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, paid sincere tribute to Mr. Hurley, but said he regarded an inquiry as in no way partisan.

"I merely want the loyal men of the Shipping Board to explain what has baffled them," said he. "The worst that can be imagined is the clash of the naval and the civilian mind."

Senator Lewis, of Illinois, wanted responsibility defined. Senator Swanson resented a "sneak upon the navy."

"Naval officers were not given the necessary authority," he said. "The navy would be building the ships now," said Senator Lodge. "My idea is to dissolve the shipping board and put in one competent man."

Question of Authority.

Rear Admiral Harris' dispute, like that of Rear Admiral Washington L. Capps and that of Maj. Gen. George W. Goethals with Chairman William Denman, involved the question of authority. Rear Admiral Harris was advised that a chart of the duties was being prepared and that as soon as that had been completed, his duties would be laid down to him, just as they would be to all the other officers in the fleet corporation. That chart was completed on Friday. Whether Rear Admiral Harris was displeased with his outlined duties or not, is not known. At any rate, yesterday it was announced that he had sent his request to the Secretary of the Navy for transfer back to his old post.

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Hurley Gives Version.

Admiral Harris, upon the retirement of Admiral Capps on December 1, on account of ill health, was designated general manager," said Chairman Hurley, "while the reorganization was in progress he suggested to me that the Emergency Fleet Corporation be moved to Philadelphia. I suggested that a matter of this kind, involving policy as well as possible legislative approval, would certainly have to be submitted to the board of trustees. He also wanted to give his immediate approval to an expenditure of about \$12,000,000 for housing operations in connection with the shipyards. This being a departure from the corporation's functions of shipbuilding, I felt that the trustees should pass upon it. Admiral Harris then expressed the opinion that his authority was to be limited and that he would be able to render more service elsewhere. The board of trustees concurred in this judgment, feeling that their duty required careful consideration of projects apart from shipbuilding."

Mr. Hurley seems confident that any investigation would not cause perturbation in the Shipping Board, particularly if it is complete.

Nine Men to a Tent.

At Camp Doniphan, nine men to a tent resulted in excessive pneumonia, meningitis, diphtheria and measles.

"I am informed that shipments of winter clothing are coming in rapidly and issued to the men as fast as received," says Gen. Gorgas. "From personal observation, however, I find that many men are still wearing their cotton khaki clothing." This report was dated December 17.

At Camp Bowie the prevalence of diseases due to overcrowding and insufficient clothing is noted. Conditions here are described as the worst of any camp visited. They have disturbed the governor of Texas and the local health authorities.

The base hospital is in an unfinished condition," Gen. Gorgas reports. "No water in the hospital, no plumbing or sewer connections."

Gen. Gorgas recommends telegraphic orders to correct conditions.

Teuton Kisses Tricolor But 'Twas "Play-Acting"

New York, Dec. 18.—Note for the Kaiser: A German subject kissed the French flag here last night.

It was only "play-acting," but just the same Mme. Hempel, the German opera singer, took the flag in both hands and pressed it to her lips in the presentation of "Daughter of the Regiment." The audience cheered.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHARITY TAKEN

Twelve Other Cases of Pressing Need Remain to Be Met.

Opportunity knocks but once. The fourteen "opportunities" which the Associated Charities has given to Washingtonians this Christmas have knocked at the door of Washington's big heart. Two of these knocks have been heeded already, and a blind mother and father with seven little children are assured a livelihood during 1918. A little bread-winner of 15 years has been given a helping hand.

But with only six days remaining until Christmas, there are yet twelve knocks only partially heeded. The Associated Charities has asked \$520 for the care of six fatherless children, and has received only \$489.

A widow with three children needs \$416 to tide her through the coming year, and so far only \$12 has been subscribed. Only \$6 has been given toward the \$116 needed for a deserted wife with two small children. Another deserted wife with four children still needs \$255 toward the \$260 required.

A widow with five children needs \$525, and only \$768 has been subscribed. A Greek woman with ten children is asking for \$624, of which \$569 has been donated. There is still another widow with six children who needs \$520, and another deserted wife who must have \$311. And there is a grandmother and "Little Johnny," who supports his five little brothers and sisters and his grandmother. Johnny needs just \$114 to make ends meet. And there is yet another widow, whose four little children wage-earners, though they work as hard as may be, are unable to "get by" unless some one gives them a lift this Christmas.

Those who wish to contribute may send donations to The Herald or to John Joy Edson, treasurer of the Associated Charities.

Subscriptions amounting to \$228 were received yesterday.

EXPOSE BY GORGAS

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center of endemic meningitis for years. Yet the camp was built in the river about, where storms of dust blow about the streets. To the dust and the crowding he attributes the excessive pneumonia rate. The men had no winter clothing and no heat in the barracks.

Of Camp Sevier he says: "Sanitary conditions here are serious. Sixty men have died of pneumonia within the last month."

The condition was due to the overcrowding of men from rural communities who had never had measles and to the lack of warm clothing. Under date of November 29, Gen. Gorgas says that wool clothing has arrived but not issued and that the whole command was still in khaki.

"Heat and plumbing are needed in the hospital," he says, and he recommends motor trucks for the hospital.

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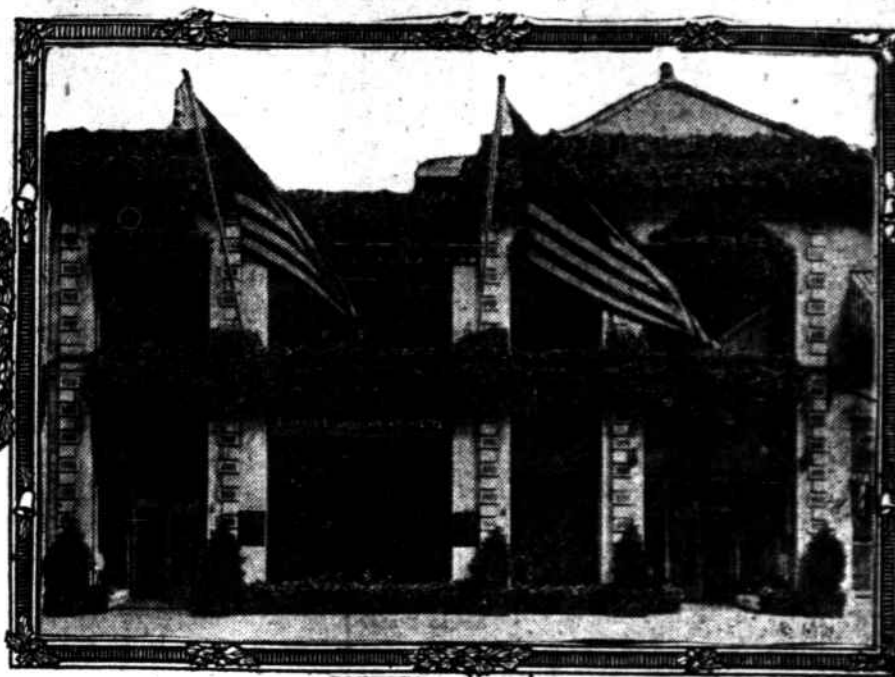
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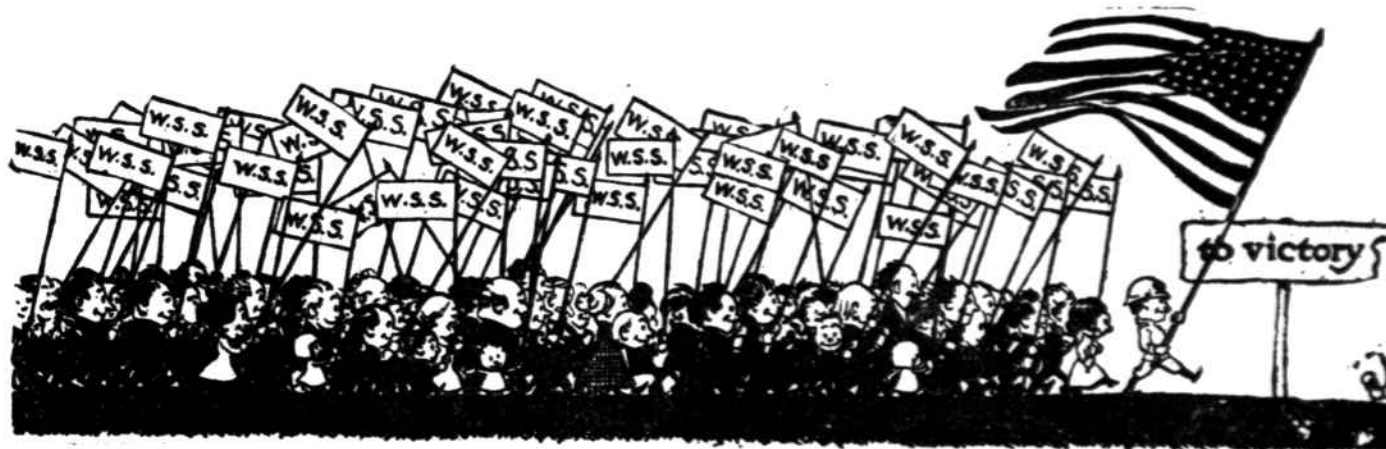
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